

Subject-Verb Agreement 4

If the subject of a sentence is separated from its verb by other words or phrases, you may be tempted to make the verb agree with the closest noun—which is not necessarily the subject. One way to avoid this problem is to say the sentence aloud without the words that come between the subject and the verb. Try this technique on the examples below. (Also, see pages 570–571 and 778.1 in *Texas Write Source* for more information.)

Examples

The raptors in the time of dinosaurs were fast and able hunters.

Fossil eggs found in the desert prove dinosaur mothers put their eggs in nests.



Directions

Read the sentences below. Then rewrite the sentences, separating the subject and the verb with a phrase. The first one has been done for you.

1. Raptors were hungry all the time.

Raptors feeding on small animals were hungry all the time.

2. Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago.

3. Fossils tell us about dinosaurs.

4. Some dinosaurs were bigger than houses.

5. Tyrannosaurus Rex was the biggest meat eater.
